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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/870,175

05/30/2001

Toshio Takahashi

36409-01200

9194

27171

7590

02/24/2006

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EXAMINER

GRANT II, JEROME

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2626

DATE MAILED: 02/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/870,175	<b>Applicant(s)</b> TAKAHASHI, TOSHIO	
	<b>Examiner</b> Jerome Grant II	<b>Art Unit</b> 2626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 December 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 18-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 18-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
JEROME GRANT II  
PATENT EXAMINER

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### Detailed Action

1.

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 12-8-2005 has been entered.

2.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 18-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cox.

With respect to claim 18, Cox teaches a management system (see figure 1) which includes management service providing apparatus (printer client 101) capable of communicating with a user communication apparatus 102 via a network 103:

said user communication apparatus 102:

image forming input means 114 as claimed;

problem details input means 108 for inputting details of the problem which occurred in said image forming apparatus;

display means 105 displaying said problem details and a list of concerning problem degrees

selection means (software program stored in RAM 106) for selecting a problem degree from the list;

transmitting means (processor 104) for transmitting said selected problem to the service apparatus;

said management service providing apparatus comprising:

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receiving means (static memory 112) for receiving the problem degree from the communication apparatus;

analyzing means (processor 111) for analyzing said received problem degree.

With respect to claim 19, Cox teaches

image forming input means 114 as claimed;

problem details input means 108 for inputting details of the problem which occurred in said image forming apparatus;

display means 105 displaying said problem details and a list of concerning problem degrees

selection means (software program stored in RAM 106) for selecting a problem degree from the list;

transmitting means (processor 104) for transmitting said selected problem to the service apparatus.

With respect to claim 20, Cox teaches receiving means (static memory 112) for receiving the problem degree from the communication apparatus.

With respect to claim 21, Cox teaches the image forming means 102.

With respect to claim 22, Cox teaches the method of controlling a apparatus which is capable of communicating with an external apparatus, comprising:

image forming input means 114 for performing the step of inputting information for identifying an image forming apparatus as claimed;

problem details input means 108 for performing the step of inputting details of the problem which occurred in said image forming apparatus;

display means 105 for performing the step of displaying said problem details and a list of concerning problem degrees

selection means (software program stored in RAM 106) for performing the step of selecting a problem degree from the list;

transmitting means (processor 104) for performing the step of transmitting said selected problem to the service apparatus.

With respect to claim 23, Cox teaches a computer readable program (stored in RAM 106) comprising program codes for controlling an apparatus which is capable of communicating with an external apparatus 101, comprising:

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image forming input means 114 for performing the step of inputting information for identifying an image forming apparatus as claimed;

problem details input means 108 for performing the step of inputting details of the problem which occurred in said image forming apparatus;

display means 105 for performing the step of displaying said problem details and a list of concerning problem degrees

selection means (software program stored in RAM 106) for performing the step of selecting a problem degree from the list;

transmitting means (processor 104) for performing the step of transmitting said selected problem to the service apparatus.

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3.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jerome Grant II whose telephone number is 571-272-7463. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. from 9:00 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly A. Williams, can be reached on 571-272-7471. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

J. Grant II

